

## A NEW GENUS OF LIZARDS.

In the course of re-arranging a reptile collection, which has for some years been slowly increasing, and had been thrown into sad confusion by the exigencies of a hurried removal to new quarters, an unlabelled bottle was met with containing snakes that have almost certainly been brought from one of the Solomon Islands by an unknown contributor. Among them was a small lizard, which deserves precedence over any ophidian pretenders to present notice. On removing it from the alcohol it seemed to be a specimen so badly cured that the skin of the abdomen had loosened, and slipped away over the legs. Further inspection shewed that this was not the case; though the head scales were not altogether perfect, the hinder parts of the body were well preserved. On lifting the apparently displaced skin, it was found to be a delicate fold rising from the abdomen and deep enough to cover the bases of the thighs, and, moreover, that these also were each invested with a separate skinfold. Knowing no other lizard with an apron and a pair of drawers, I venture to think that one so provided may be granted generic rank, and as the apron conceals parts which, to the best of my memory, are exposed in all other lacertians, the best name which suggests itself for the genus seems to be *Calyptoprymnus*.

## CALYPTOPRYMNUS n.g. FAM. AGAMIDÆ.

Habit depressed; head shields mostly normal; nostril in a single nasal; tympanum exposed, superficial; eyelids well developed, scaly; teeth small, conical, numerous; feet pentadactyle; scales in straight longitudinal and transverse series, the dorsals quadrate and keeled, the abdominal oblong and smooth, the caudal forming spinose rings. An abdominal fold covering the anus and part of thigh, beneath it loop-like folds from the tail surrounding the thighs.

## CALYPTOPRYMNUS verecundus n.s.

Plate XV.—Head conical; nostril round, on lower edge of nasal; three loreals, the largest in touch with the nasal and fronto-nasal, the last very narrow and below the front of the orbit; supra-oculars four, the anterior two in touch with the frontal; frontal as long as its distance from the rostral, about twice as long as broad; frontoparietals in two parts, the anterior the smaller, triangular, with anterior angles truncate, the posterior oblong, with upper posterior angles truncate; parietals in contact behind the interparietal; first row of small nuchals oblong, smooth, continued over the temporals to the eyes; ear orifice triangular, longer than the eye cleft; dorsal scales not or scarcely imbricate, with keels which are pointed in front, broad behind, and running in continuous longitudinal lines; tail shorter than head and body, armed with whorls of spinose scales; scales of abdomen, abdominal fold and anal region beneath it oblong and smooth; limbs rather

short and feeble, but overlapping when brought together; digits covered with transverse plates above and below; claws short; preanals enlarged; no preanal pores; insertion of abdominal fold from a transverse line on the abdomen, extending dorsad and caudad to the dorsal edge of the root of the tail; the caudo-femoral fold forming a broad loop-like band arising from an inferior and a superior origin on the side of the root of the tail, and loosely investing the proximal part of the thigh; there is also an inner fold rising from a separate origin on the tail covering the outer side of the thigh and ending free within the outer fold. Scale rows, 21; length of head and body, 38 mm; tail, 31; head, 8; hind foot, 12. Above reddish brown, beneath dull yellowish brown. One example in al. Habitat uncertain, but believed to have been brought from one of the Solomon Islands by some person on board a "labour" vessel, who sent it without information or making himself known.

#### ON TYPHLOPS *torresianus* BLGR.

The fact that this blindworm is in the British Museum Catalogue of Snakes placed next to *T. ligatus* Pet. seems to show that in the opinion of the learned author the two are closely allied. From data now accessible it is not impossible that a knowledge of more than the two Murray Island specimens named by him *torresianus* might have caused him to hesitate before separating them from *T. ligatus*. Queensland examples of *T. torresianus* were identified by Mr. Waite in 1895, and since that date several others have been received from the north of the State. The result of an examination of the whole series leads one to doubt whether they are really distinct from *T. ligatus*.

The synoptical characters of the two species are:—

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 24 scale rows round the body; nasal cleft |                       |
| proceeding from the first labial          | .. <i>ligatus</i>     |
| 22 scale rows round the body; nasal cleft |                       |
| proceeding from the second labial         | .. <i>torresianus</i> |

To these we may add:—

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Tail one and half times as long as broad | .. <i>ligatus</i>        |
| Tail rather longer than broad            | .. .. <i>torresianus</i> |

Having nine specimens to deal with, I find that of these—

- 5 have 24 scale rows and the nasal groove from the first labial; these correspond so far with *ligatus*, but they have the tail of *torresianus*
- 2 have 22 scale rows and the groove to the second labial; these correspond so far with *torresianus*, but they have in one case the tail of *torresianus*, in the other of *ligatus*.
- 2 have 22 scale rows and the groove to the first labial, and both have the tail of *torresianus*. These fail to correspond with either species.

The alternative before us seems to be either to throw *ligatus* and *torresianus* together as one species, viz., *ligatus*, or to make the intermediate form a new species.

*DISTIRA nasalis* n.s.

Rostral as long as broad; nasal about five times as long as the inner prefrontal suture, shorter than frontal, its inferoposterior angle divided off by a groove from the nostril to the prefrontal and another to the second labial; frontal much longer than broad, longer than its distance from the rostral, shorter than the parietals; one pre- and two postoculars; anterior temporal large, descending to the mouth; six upper labials, third and fourth entering the orbit; two pairs of chin shields, the anterior much the longer, in touch with three lower labials. Scale rows, 33 on neck; 37 on body; ventrals distinct, smooth. Whitish, with broad black bands across the dorsum and tail, and intermediate bands of spots more or less confluent; sides and belly with dark spots; tail beneath with bars alternating with its dorsal bands. One example in al., Queensland coast.

*PLATURUS frontalis* n.s.

A species with keeled ventrals and an azygous head-shield, but distinguished from *P. schistorynchus* by an entire rostral and shield-like temporals; from *P. muelleri* by the azygous shield aforesaid, an elongate frontal and different lepidosis.

Rostral, deeper than broad, entire, separating the nasals; an azygous shield between the prefrontals; frontal longer than parietals, its posterior angle acute; seven upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit; one pre- and two postoculars; one anterior and two posterior temporals; scale rows 21 round the body; ventrals, 198, the last 30 keeled, except the divided penultimate and preanal; subcaudals 31. Head pale yellow, with black markings as in the other species; dorsum with 34 black cross bands narrower than the spaces between them; under surface nearly white. One example in al. Hab. New Guinea.

*VANAPINA* n.g.

Maxillary extending as far forwards as the palatine; on it anteriorly a deeply-grooved fang, the groove folded over at the base, after a short diastema four or five small ungrooved teeth; anterior mandibular teeth enlarged, fang like; posterior minute, all ungrooved. Habit elongate cylindrical, tail short and thick; eye very small; pupil round; nasal divided; no loreal; scales smooth in 17 rows; ventrals rounded; subcaudals paired.

## VANAPINA lineata.

Snout rounded, moderately long; eye about half as long as its distance from the mouth; rostral as deep as broad, visible from above; nasal divided by a groove to the second labial and by the nostril above; internasals shorter than the prefrontals; prefrontals entering the orbit; frontal a fifth longer than broad, rather longer than its distance from the rostral; shorter than the parietals, twice as broad as the supraoculars; preocular fused with the prefrontal, one postocular; temporals  $1 + 2$ ; 6 upper labials, third and fourth entering the orbit; two pairs of chin shields, anterior in touch with lower labials, posterior more scale-like and separated by a scale; scale rows, 17; ventrals, 288; anal divided; subcaudals, 26. Above brown, a faintly darker longitudinal bar on each scale, forming obscure lines on dorsum, on the laterals the bars distinct and forming continuous lines on a white ground; ventrals yellowish white with two black intramarginal lines; head with a white cross bar over the prefrontals, a round white spot on the rostral, and a large white blotch on the last two upper labials. One example in al. Habitat, Vanapa Valley, British New Guinea. Is this *Apistocalamus lorice*, Blgr?

## RHYNCHELAPS latizonatus n.s.

Snout deep, projecting at the tip; eye less than two-thirds its distance from the mouth; rostral broader than deep, with its edge and posterior angle obtuse, its upper surface equal to distance from the frontal; internasals about two-thirds as long as the prefrontals; frontal as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, nearly one and one-fifth times as long as broad, broader than the supraoculars, one-third shorter than the parietals; nasal elongate, in touch with the single preocular; two (?) postoculars; temporals,  $1 + 1$ , the anterior very large; six upper labials, the last very large, third and fourth entering orbit; anterior chin shield rather the larger, in touch with three lower labials; posterior separated by a scale; scale rows, 15; ventrals, 225; anal divided; subcaudals, 19 pairs. Pale yellow, with 33 broad complete blue-black rings. One example in al. Habitat, Queensland.

The tumid snout and greater number of ventrals distinguish this snake from *R. bertholdi*. On both sides the postocular area has lost its scales, it is even possible that there are no postoculars.

## PSEUDECHIS gutta'a n.s.

Distinguished from *P. papuanus* by its reduced number of ventrals and paired subcaudals, by differences in the proportions of some of its head shields and in colouring.

Eye moderate, longer than its distance from the mouth; rostral broader than deep, upper surface equal in length to the suture between the internasals, less than a third of its distance from the frontal; internasals half the length of the prefrontals;



frontal half as long again as broad, considerably longer than the prefrontals, as long as its distance from the rostral, as broad as the supraocular, three-fifths as long as the parietals; posterior nasal in touch with the single preocular; postoculars two; temporals 2+2, lower anterior large, wedged between fifth and sixth upper labials, third deeper than fourth; six upper labials, third and fourth entering orbit; chin shields equal, anterior in touch with four lower labials; scale rows round the body, 19; ventrals, 181, rounded. Subcaudals, 39 single and 11 pairs; anal divided. Upper surface black, most of the scales of the dorsum with a yellow large median spot; lower surface lead grey, the anterior ventrals marbled with whitish. Length, 1070 mm; tail, 70. One example in al. Habitat, Cecil Plains, Queensland.

*DENISONIA nigra* n.s.

Eye large, greater than its distance from the mouth; rostral considerably broader than deep, but little visible from above; internasals about two-thirds as long as the prefrontals; frontals once and two-thirds as broad as long, once and a-half as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, shorter than parietals, scarcely broader than the supraculars; nasal entire, in touch with the single preocular; two postoculars; temporals, 2 + 3; six upper labials, third and fourth entering orbit; anterior chin shield the shorter and broader, in touch with three lower labials; scale rows, 15; ventrals, 126; subcaudals, 42, in one row; anal entire. Black above, a faint white line on upper edge of upper labials; below, ventrals edged with white, their centres white, spotted with black; under side of tail, flesh colour. One young example in al. Habitat, Tasmania.

Structurally, this snake approaches *D. superba* pretty closely; but for its smaller number of ventrals and greater of posterior temporals, one might suspect it to be a young melanotic individual of that species.

*DENISONIA fenestrata* n.s.

Eye small, shorter than its distance from the mouth; rostral broader than deep, not or scarcely visible from above; internasals less than half as long as prefrontals; nasals semidivided, far removed from the single preocular; frontal one-fifth longer than broad, as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, shorter than the parietals, two and a-half times broader than the supraoculars; two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2, the lower anterior as usual; six upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit; chin shields equal, anterior in touch with four lower labials. Scale in 17 rows round the body; ventrals, 167-175; subcaudals, 28-42 pairs; anal divided. Above dark reddish brown; scales all with yellow margins; beneath yellow, immaculate; upper lip and temples reddish yellow. Two examples in al. Queensland.

Sufficiently differentiated from its nearest ally in structure, *D. woodfordii*.

*DENISONIA angulata* n.s.

Between the genera *Denisonia* and *Hoplocephalus* the difference consists in the number of scale-rows and in the rounded or angular condition of the sides of the ventrals. In the present snake the scale rows are as in *Denisonia*, the ventrals as in *Hoplocephalus*.

Eye longer than its distance from the mouth, pupil round; muzzle short, rounded; rostral nearly twice as broad as long, just visible on upper surface; internasals much shorter than prefrontals; nasal divided, in touch with preocular, oblong; frontal one and a-half times as long as broad, as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, shorter than the parietals, much broader than the supraoculars; one pre- and two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2, lower anterior as usual; six upper labials, third and fourth entering orbit; three lower labials in touch with anterior chin shield, which is much the larger of the two; anal entire; scale rows round body, 17; ventrals, 186; distinctly angulated; subcaudals, 46, in one row. Brown, a bipinniform yellow nuchal collar, narrowly black edged anteriorly, posteriorly broader and ill defined; a black temporolabial V-shaped mark; lips black barred; throat black spotted and streaked; beneath paler; ventrals with dark edges. One example in al. Habitat, Queensland.

*DENISONIA frontalis* OGIL—variety *propinqua*.

In so close propinquity with Mr. D. Ogilby's *D. frontalis*, that, notwithstanding a large eye, longer and squarer head, and different colouration, it is safer to refer it to that species.

Eye longer than its distance from the mouth, pupil elliptic, erect; muzzle rather long, subquadrate; rostral twice as broad as long, appearing on the upper surface; nasal entire, oblong, removed from preocular; internasals (semifused with prefrontals) apparently nearly as large as prefrontals; frontal a third longer than broad, shorter than parietals, less than its own length from the tip of the snout, twice as broad as the supraoculars; one pre- and two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2, lower anterior as usual; six upper labials, third and fourth entering orbit; three lower labials in touch with anterior chin shield, which is about as large as the posterior; anal entire. Scale rows round the body, 19; ventrals, 161; subcaudals, 30, in one row. Head and nape above pale brown, relieved by a white band edged with dark brown, passing from the posterior temporals over the orbit to the end of the nasal, and by a white upper lip inclusive of the lower part of the rostral; dorsum nearly white, the scales edged with pale brown; below white, immaculate. One example in al. Habitat, Queensland.

*FURINA robusta* N.S.

Habit comparatively short and stout; head slightly distinct; eye about twice its diameter from the mouth; rostral more than twice as broad as deep, viewed from above about as long as

the internasals, as long as half the distance from the frontal; internasals shorter than prefrontals; frontal about twice as long as broad, shorter than its distance from the tip of the muzzle, about a third broader than the supraoculars, which are entirely on the upper surface; parietals as long as their distance from the tip of the muzzle; nasal elongate, in touch with the single preocular; two postoculars; temporals one and one; upper labials six, third and fourth entering orbit, fifth and sixth subequal; three pairs of chin shields, the posterior pairs small; scales in 15 rows; ventrals, 135; subcaudals, 18; anal divided; length, 280 mm.; tail, 19. Yellowish white, each scale with brown edges, annulated with black rings (the first on the nape), which above are about equal to the interspaces, below narrower and occupying two or three shields or two and a-half of the width of the shields before and behind them; the half rings on opposite sides, posterior region of head and spots on the sides black; throat with longitudinal black streaks. Locality, Coolgardie, West Australia. One example in alcohol, presented by Mr. R. L. Reid.

*MICROPECHIS crucifer* n.s.

Rostral much broader than deep, but appearing on the upper surface to a length equal to the internasal suture; internasals about four-fifths of the length of the prefrontals; frontal hexagonal, a little broader than the supraocular, more than twice as long as broad, about three-fifths of the length of the parietals. No cauthus rostralis; posterior nasal not in actual contact with the preocular; one postocular; two temporals, the upper much the larger; six upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit, the fifth largest; three lower labials in contact with the anterior chin shield, which is much longer than the others; anal divided; scales in 15 rows; ventrals, 185; subcaudals (two-rowed), 29. Length 397 mm.; tail, 42; head, 16 long by 9 broad.

A red vertebral line from tip of tail to back of head, where with a transverse band it forms a cross; continuing on the head it bifurcates on the frontal shield; sides black with an irregular median line of yellow spots, which anteriorly sends off short vertical lines above and below, posteriorly these short lines become a continuous longitudinal one, and lastly all break up into a confusion of close-set spots; ventrals half black, half yellow. Locality, uncertain; believed to be the Solomon Islands. One example.

The nasal is on the right side practically entire, as there is but a faint indication of division on its upper edge. No teeth appear above the gum behind the maxillary fang.



Abdominal fold, reversed.

Caudofemoral fold, reversed.

Diagrammatic view of abdominal  
and caudofemoral folds.

F. Elliott, Lith.

*Calyptoprymnus verecundus.*